

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~Substrate based on fibres, especially cellulosic fibres, A substrate comprising at least 50% by weight of cellulosic fibres, which substrate comprises comprising zinc, silver or copper gluconate incorporated thereto as an antimicrobial agent.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended) ~~Substrate A substrate~~ according to claim 6 which is a sanitary article such as a hand wipe, toilet paper, a handkerchief, an impregnated diaper or absorbent paper.

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~Substrate A substrate~~ according to claim 6 which is a feminine hygiene article such as an absorbent pad, or a baby article such as an impregnated diaper.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~Substrate A substrate~~ according to claim 6 which is a food packaging article such as a nonwoven or absorbent paper for meat trays.

Claim 10 (currently amended) ~~Substrate A substrate~~ according to claim 6 which is a

nonwoven based on paper fibres, obtained by the dry method.

Claim 11 (currently amended) Substrate A substrate according to ~~one of claims 6 to 10~~
~~claim 6~~ which comprises from about 0.01 to 10% by weight, ~~preferably from about 0.05~~
~~to 1% by weight~~, of antimicrobial agent.

Claim 12 (currently amended) Substrate A substrate according to ~~one of claims 6 to 11~~
~~claim 6~~ wherein the antimicrobial agent is zinc gluconate.

Claim 13 (new) A sanitary article according to claim 7, which is a hand wipe, toilet paper, a handkerchief, an impregnated diaper or absorbent paper.

Claim 14 (new) A feminine hygiene article according to claim 8, which is an absorbent pad.

Claim 15 (new) A baby article according to claim 8, which is an impregnated diaper.

Claim 16 (new) A food packaging article according to claim 9, which is a nonwoven or absorbent paper for meat trays.

Claim 17 (new) A substrate according to claim 11, which comprises from about 0.05 to 1% by weight of antimicrobial agent.

Claim 18 (new) A substrate according to claim 6, wherein the cellulosic fibres are mixed with about 5 to about 40% by weight of synthetic fibres, based on the weight of the substrate.

Claim 19 (new) A sheet of nonwoven as defined in claim 10, which has a weight of about 40 to 120 g/m².

Claim 20 (new) A substrate according to claim 6 which is a pulp wadding based on paper fibres, obtained by the wet method.